

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 2, 2010

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 22, 2010

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 1, 2010

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 21, 2010

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 1354**

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**Introduced by Senator Hancock  
(Coauthor: Senator Romero)**

February 19, 2010

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An act to amend Sections 54690, 54691, and 54692 of the Education Code, relating to instructional programs.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1354, as amended, Hancock. Partnership academies.

Existing law provides for the establishment of partnership academies for pupils at risk of dropping out of school by participating school districts that meet specified eligibility requirements, and requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to issue grants to school districts for planning, establishing, and maintaining the partnership academies. The Superintendent is authorized to issue a maximum of 155 grants per year for purposes of planning partnership academies. Existing law sets forth criteria for a pupil to be considered at risk of dropping out of school.

This bill would delete the limit on the number of grants the Superintendent is authorized to issue for planning partnership academies. The bill would expand the criteria for determining whether a pupil is at risk of dropping out of school, and would revise the requirements for the enrollment of pupils who are not at risk. The bill would require a school district to provide an assurance that each academy pupil will be

provided with career technical courses ~~or other appropriate technical courses~~ in each grade level that are part of an occupational course sequence that targets comprehensive skills, and meets certain other requirements. The bill would make other conforming changes.

This bill would also make technical, nonsubstantive changes.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 54690 of the Education Code is amended  
2 to read:

3 54690. (a) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that the  
4 partnership academies program has proven to be a highly effective  
5 state-school-private sector partnership, providing combined  
6 academic and occupational training to high school pupils who  
7 present a high risk of dropping out of school, and motivating those  
8 pupils to stay in school and graduate. Partnership academies are  
9 functioning in high schools across the state, with occupational  
10 education and skills development successfully offered in more  
11 than 15 different skill fields, including electronics, computer  
12 technology, finance, agribusiness, alternative energy,  
13 environmental design and construction, graphic arts and printing,  
14 international business, and space. Partnership academies have been  
15 honored with national awards for excellence, and the California  
16 partnership academies have been given high accolades in various  
17 textbooks and studies addressing career technical education  
18 programs.

19 (b) The Legislature finds the partnership academies are in the  
20 forefront of school efforts to integrate academic and career  
21 technical education and that they can be effective in providing an  
22 integrated learning program and high motivation toward pursuing  
23 skilled occupational fields to pupils at risk of dropping out of  
24 school and to pupils not motivated by the regular educational  
25 curriculum. Further, the Legislature finds the partnership academies  
26 can make a very positive contribution towards meeting the needs  
27 of the state for a highly skilled and educated workforce in the 21st  
28 century.

29 (c) Therefore, the Legislature hereby states its intent to expand  
30 the number of partnership academies in this state's high schools,

hereafter to be known as California Partnership Academies; to broaden the availability of these learning experiences to interested pupils who do not meet the criteria of “at-risk” pupils; and to encourage the establishment of academies whose occupational fields address the needs of developing technologies.

(d) For purposes of this article, an “at-risk” pupil means a pupil enrolled in high school who is at risk of dropping out of school, as indicated by at least three of the following criteria:

(1) Past record of irregular attendance. For purposes of this section, “irregular attendance” means absence from school 20 percent or more of the school year.

(2) Past record of underachievement in which the pupil is at least one year behind the coursework for the respective grade level, or as demonstrated by ~~level of coursework, credits achieved, or by test scores.~~ *credits achieved.*

(3) Past record of low motivation or a disinterest in the regular school program.

(4) Disadvantaged economically.

(5) Scoring below basic in mathematics or English language arts on the standardized test administered pursuant to Article 4 (commencing with Section 60640) of Chapter 5 of Part 33.

(6) Maintaining a grade point average of 2.2 or below, or the equivalent of a C minus.

(e) Up to one-half of the pupils enrolled at a partnership academy may be pupils who do not meet the criteria of “at-risk” pupils.

(f) The department may expend no more than 5 percent of the funds received to carry out this article on administrative expenses.

SEC. 2. Section 54691 of the Education Code is amended to read:

54691. Commencing with the 1993–94 fiscal year, from the funds appropriated for that purpose, the Superintendent shall issue grants to school districts maintaining high schools that meet the specifications of Section 54692, for purposes of planning, establishing, and maintaining academies, as follows:

(a) The Superintendent, when issuing the grants to school districts, shall ensure that the grants are equitably distributed among high-wealth and low-wealth school districts in urban, rural, and suburban areas. Each planning grant shall be in the amount of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000).

(b) For the 1993–94 fiscal year, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Superintendent may issue grants for the implementation and maintenance of existing academies or academies planned pursuant to subdivision (a). Implementation and maintenance grants shall be calculated in accordance with the following schedule:

(1) Districts operating academies may receive one thousand four hundred dollars (\$1,400) per year for each qualified pupil enrolled in an academy during the first year of that academy's operation, provided that no more than forty-two thousand dollars (\$42,000) may be granted to any one academy for the initial year.

(2) Districts operating academies may receive one thousand two hundred dollars (\$1,200) for each qualified pupil enrolled in an academy during the second year of that academy's operation, provided that no more than seventy-two thousand dollars (\$72,000) may be granted to any one academy for the second year.

(3) Districts operating academies may receive nine hundred dollars (\$900) for each qualified pupil enrolled in an academy during the third and following years of that academy's operation, provided that no more than eighty-one thousand dollars (\$81,000) may be granted to any one academy for each fiscal year.

(c) For purposes of this section, a qualified pupil is a pupil enrolled in a partnership academy pursuant to subdivision (d) or (e) of Section 54690 and who is enrolled in an academy for the 10th, 11th, or 12th grade, obtains 90 percent of the credits each academic year in courses that are required for graduation, and does any of the following:

(1) Successfully completes a school year during the 10th grade with an attendance record of no less than 80 percent.

(2) Successfully completes a school year during the 11th grade with an attendance record of no less than 80 percent.

(3) Successfully graduates after the 12th grade.

A pupil enrolled in an academy who successfully completes only one semester with regard to enrollment, attendance, and credits within the school year is considered qualified for that semester and the district may receive one-half of the funds specified under subdivision (b) for that pupil.

(d) At the end of each school year, school districts that have been approved to operate academies pursuant to this article shall certify the following information to the Superintendent:

1 (1) The operation of each academy in accordance with this  
2 article, including Sections 54692 and 54694.

3 (2) The number of qualified pupils enrolled during the just  
4 completed school year, by grade level, for each academy operated  
5 by the district.

6 (3) The amount of matching funds and the dollar value of in-kind  
7 support made available to each academy in accordance with  
8 subdivisions (a) and (b) of Section 54692.

9 (e) The Superintendent shall adjust each school district's grant  
10 in accordance with the certification made to him or her pursuant  
11 to subdivision (d) or in accordance with any discrepancies to the  
12 certification that may be revealed by audit. Notwithstanding the  
13 provisions of this section, the Superintendent may advance up to  
14 50 percent of the funds as he or she deems appropriate to districts  
15 that are approved to operate, or plan to operate partnership  
16 academies.

17 (f) Funds granted to school districts pursuant to this article may  
18 be expended without regard to fiscal year. However, the funds  
19 must be expended for the maintenance and operation of academies.

20 SEC. 3. Section 54692 of the Education Code is amended to  
21 read:

22 54692. In order to be eligible to receive funding pursuant to  
23 this article, a school district shall provide all of the following:

24 (a) An amount equal to a 100 percent match of all funds received  
25 pursuant to this article in the form of direct and in-kind support  
26 provided by the district.

27 (b) An amount equal to a 100 percent match of all funds received  
28 pursuant to this article in the form of direct and in-kind support  
29 provided by participating companies or other private sector  
30 organizations.

31 (c) An assurance that state funds provided by the partnership  
32 academies program shall be used only for the development,  
33 operation, and support of partnership academies.

34 (d) An assurance that each academy will be established as a  
35 "school within a school." Academy teachers shall work as a team  
36 in planning, teaching, and troubleshooting program activities.  
37 Classes in the academy program shall be limited to academy pupils  
38 as specified in subdivision (d). Each participating school district  
39 shall establish an advisory committee consisting of individuals  
40 involved in academy operations, including school district and

1 school administrators, lead teachers, and representatives of the  
2 private sector.

3 (e) Assurance that each academy pupil will be provided with  
4 the following:

5 (1) Instruction in at least three academic subjects each regular  
6 school term that prepares the pupil for a regular high school  
7 diploma, and, where possible *and appropriate*, to meet the ~~A-G~~  
8 ~~University of California requirements~~ *subject requirements for*  
9 *admission to the California State University and the University of*  
10 *California*. These subjects should contribute to an understanding  
11 of the occupational field of the academy.

12 (2) Career technical education ~~or other appropriate technical~~  
13 courses offered at each grade level at the academy that are part of  
14 an occupational course sequence that targets comprehensive skills  
15 and that does the following:

16 (A) Provides career technical education in high skill, ~~high pay~~  
17 occupations of regional and local economic need.

18 (B) Focuses on occupations requiring comprehensive skills  
19 leading to higher than entry-level wages, or the possibility of  
20 significant wage increases after a few years on the job, or both.

21 (C) Provides a sequence of courses that build upon each other  
22 in knowledge, skill development, and experience, and ends in a  
23 capstone course that includes an internship component.

24 (D) Prepares pupils for employment and postsecondary  
25 education. Sequenced courses shall be linked to certificate and  
26 degree programs in the region, where possible.

27 (E) Whenever possible, prepares pupils for industry-recognized  
28 certifications.

29 (F) Whenever possible *and appropriate*, offers career technical  
30 education courses that also meet ~~A-G University of California~~  
31 ~~requirements~~. *the subject requirements for admission to the*  
32 *California State University and the University of California*.

33 (3) A class schedule that limits the attendance to the classes  
34 required in paragraphs (1) and (2) to pupils of the academy.  
35 Whenever possible, these classes should be block scheduled in a  
36 cluster to provide flexibility to academy teachers. During the 12th  
37 grade the number of academic classes may vary.

38 (4) A mentor from the business community during the pupil's  
39 11th grade year.

1 (5) An internship or paid job related to the academy's  
2 occupational field or work experience to improve employment  
3 skills. An internship or paid job may be in a school enterprise  
4 program. A pupil who must attend summer school for purposes of  
5 completing graduation requirements is exempt from this paragraph.

6 (6) Additional motivational activities with private sector  
7 involvement to encourage academic and occupational preparation.

8 (f) Assurance that academy teachers have a common planning  
9 period to interchange pupil and educational information. A second  
10 planning period should be provided for the lead teacher in addition  
11 to the normal planning period for full-time teachers and be  
12 supported as a part of the school district's matching funds,  
13 whenever practical.